

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

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GUILTY VERDICT IN OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE CASE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 22, 2007, **DERRICK D. HOWARD**, age 37, of St. Louis, Missouri, was found guilty in United States District Court, St. Louis, Missouri, following a three-week jury trial of five separate violations of federal law. Count 1 charged **DERRICK D. HOWARD** with Obstruction of Justice. Counts 2 - 4 charged **DERRICK D. HOWARD** with Use of a Facility of Interstate Commerce (a telephone) with the Intent that Murder be Committed. Each of Counts 2 - 4 involved a different victim. Count 5 charged **DERRICK D. HOWARD** with Threatening to Murder an Assistant United States Attorney in Retaliation for the Performance of Official Duties. Each count carries a sentence of up to 10 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and up to 3 years' supervised release to follow incarceration. Sentencing is scheduled for April 6, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in the United States District Court, St. Louis, Missouri.

A co-defendant previously pleaded guilty in the case to Count 1, Obstruction of Justice, and to Counts 3 and 4, each charging Use of a Facility of Interstate Commerce with the Intent that Murder be Committed. Sentencing has not been scheduled.

According to court documents, **DERRICK D. HOWARD** was incarcerated on a conviction for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon when he began scheming to get a reduction in that sentence by framing another individual for murders which he hired an FBI cooperating witness to commit. He also threatened to murder the Assistant United States Attorney handling the Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon case in retaliation for performance of official duties.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Angela Scott and Kit Morrissey.